

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04387 292026Z
ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1262

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, YO, US
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DIALOGUE

1. DURING MY INTRODUCTORY CALL ON HIM JUNE 24, LCY SECRETARY STANE DOLANC STRONGLY ENDORSED THE NEED TO INITIATE POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. RESPONDING TO MY RENEWAL OF INVITATION THAT SUCH KEY POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AS OMLADINA, SAWPY AND LCY SEND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT THE US, DOLANC SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI RECENTLY AND APPROVED. HE NOTED HIS "DEEP CONVICTION IT SERIOUS HANDICAP THAT UNLIKE WITH MOST OTHER COUNTRIES AND ALL SORTS OF POLITICAL PARTIES YUGOSLAVIA HAS PRACTICALLY NO POLITICAL CONTACT WITH US." HE SAW "ABSOLUTELY NO REASON THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE CONTACT WITH DEMOCRATIC PARTY OR SOMEONE ELSE IN US... YUGOSLAVS ARE PREPARED FOR THIS, OUR PEOPLE COULD GO WHENEVER YOU ARE READY, THIS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR US AS WELL AS YOU."

2. I PROMISED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY SO THAT WE COULD MOVE FORWARD AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE TO BEGIN THIS EXCHANGE. RECOMMEND FOLLOWING NEXT STEPS.

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3. OMLADINA. WHILE MEMBERS OF AL THREE POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD TRAVEL UNDER IVP AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH DEPARTMENT, INVITATION FROM US POLITICAL BODIES OR INDIVIDUALS WOULD FACILITATE PROCESS. IN CASE OF OMLADINA LOGICAL US COUNTER-PART IS ACYPL. CSCE COMMISSION AND ACYPL BOARD MEMBER SPENCER OLOVER WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED MATTER HAS VOLUNTEERED TO BRING BACK FROM WASHINGTON A LETTER OF INVITATION

FROM ACYPL TO OMLADINA, AND TOGETHER WITH EMBASSY WOULD THEN CALL ON OMLADINA TO PRESENT REQUEST. REQUEST THAT EUR/EE AND CU CONTACT OLIVER AND EXPEDITE.

4. SAWPY AND LCY: EMBASSY PLANS CALL ON OFFICIALS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS IN NEXT FEW WEEKS TO FOLLOW UP ON DOLANC APPROVAL. BUT OUR TASK WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALY EASIER IF WE HAD LETTERS OF INVITATION FROM POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUAL POLITICIANS IN THE US, OR AT LEAST SOME INDICATION OF THEIR INTEREST IN SEEING YUGOSLAV POLITICIANS. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONSULT WITH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES AND WITH CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY MEMBERS WHO HAVE VISITED YUGOSLAVIA LIKE JAVITS AND KENNEDY. PERHAPS THERE ARE OTHER US POLITICAL BODIES WHICH COULD PLAY A ROLE. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INDICATION OF HOW THIS EFFORT PROCEEDING.

5. COMMENT: WITH DOLANC GIVING GREEN LIGHT, WE NOW HAVE FOR FIRST TIME OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN EXPOSING YUGOSLAVIA'S NEXT GENERATION OF POLITICAL LEADERS TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO ESTABLISH DIALOGUE WITH THEM. WHILE I VALUE JOURNALISTS, ACADEMICS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE IN PAST TRAVELLED UNDER IVP, THIS IS CLEARLY A NEW AND FUNDAMENTALLY MORE IMPORTANT DIMENSION. IT CALLS FOR A SPECIAL EFFORT ON OUR PART.

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EAGLEBURGER

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Message Attributes

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